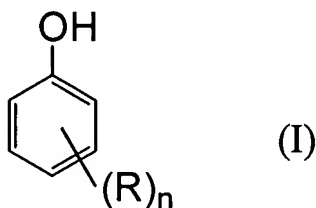


IN THE CLAIMS:

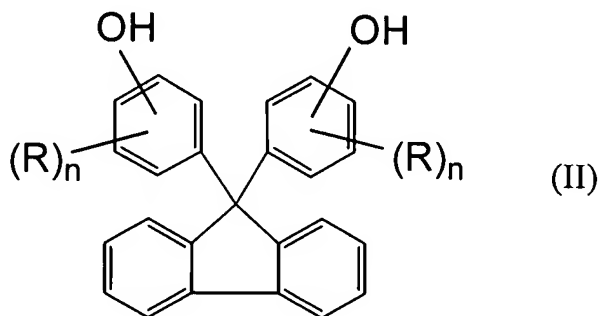
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a mercaptocarboxylic acid and a 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II)



wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and

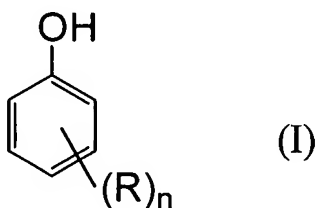
wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the mercaptocarboxylic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the 5% to 37% by weight hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [the mercaptocarboxylic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3, the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorene relative to the mercaptocarboxylic acid is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3 and an extractant is added to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and a crystallization solvent is added to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

2. (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises phenol or a C₁₋₄alkylphenol.

3. (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound represented by the formula (I) comprises a 2-C₁₋₄alkylphenol or a 3-C₁₋₄alkylphenol.

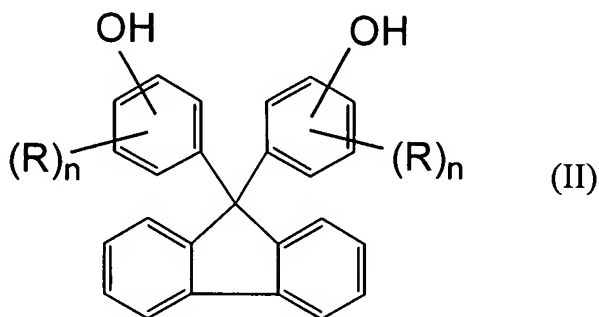
4. - 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a fluorene derivative, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a phenolic compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein R represents an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group or a cycloalkyl group, and n denotes an integer of 0 to 4,

to a condensation reaction in coexistence with a thiol and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain a fluorene derivative represented by the formula (II):



wherein R and n have the same meanings as defined above, and
wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the thiol relative to hydrogen chloride
contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [thiol/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to
1.0/3.0 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the thiol [fluorenone/ thiol]
is 1.0/0.05 to 1.0/0.3.

10. *(Canceled)*:

11. *(Currently Amended)*: A method according to claim ~~9~~¹⁰, wherein the proportion (weight ratio) thiol relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [the thiol/hydrogen chloride] is 1/0.1 to 1/3.

12. – 13. *(Canceled)*:

14. *(Currently Amended)*: A method according to claim ~~9~~¹³, wherein the proportion of (weight ratio) fluorenone relative to thiol is 1/0.08 to 1/0.15.

15. *(Previously Presented)*: A method according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 5 to 37% by weight.

16. *(Previously Presented)*: A method according to claim 15, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 25 to 37% by weight.

17. *(Previously Presented)*: A method according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution is 30 to 37% by weight.

18. *(Previously Presented)*: A method according to claim 9, wherein the thiol is a mercaptocarboxylic acid.

19. *(Previously Presented)*: A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
adding an extractant to the resulting condensation reaction mixture to distribute the object compound to the organic layer, and
adding a crystallization solvent to the organic layer to crystallize the fluorene derivative.

20. *(Currently Amended)*: A method for producing a 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C₁₋₄alkylphenyl)fluorene, which comprises subjecting fluorenone and a C₁₋₄alkylphenol to a condensation reaction in coexistence with β -mercaptopropionic acid and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to obtain the 9,9-bis(4-hydroxy-3-C₁₋₄alkylphenyl)fluorene, and
wherein the proportion (weight ratio) of the β -mercaptopropionic acid relative to hydrogen chloride contained in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [β -mercaptopropionic acid/hydrogen chloride] is 1.0/0.1 to 1.0/3 and the proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to β -mercaptopropionic acid [fluorenone/ β -mercaptopropionic acid] is 1/0.05 to 1/0.3.